

Morganza, LA to the Gulf of Mexico Study Area



Morganza, LA to the Gulf of Mexico Feasibility Study Area

- **Project Status:**

Project is in the PED phase.
Reach J, Segment 1 authorized.

- **Project Cost:** \$719.0M

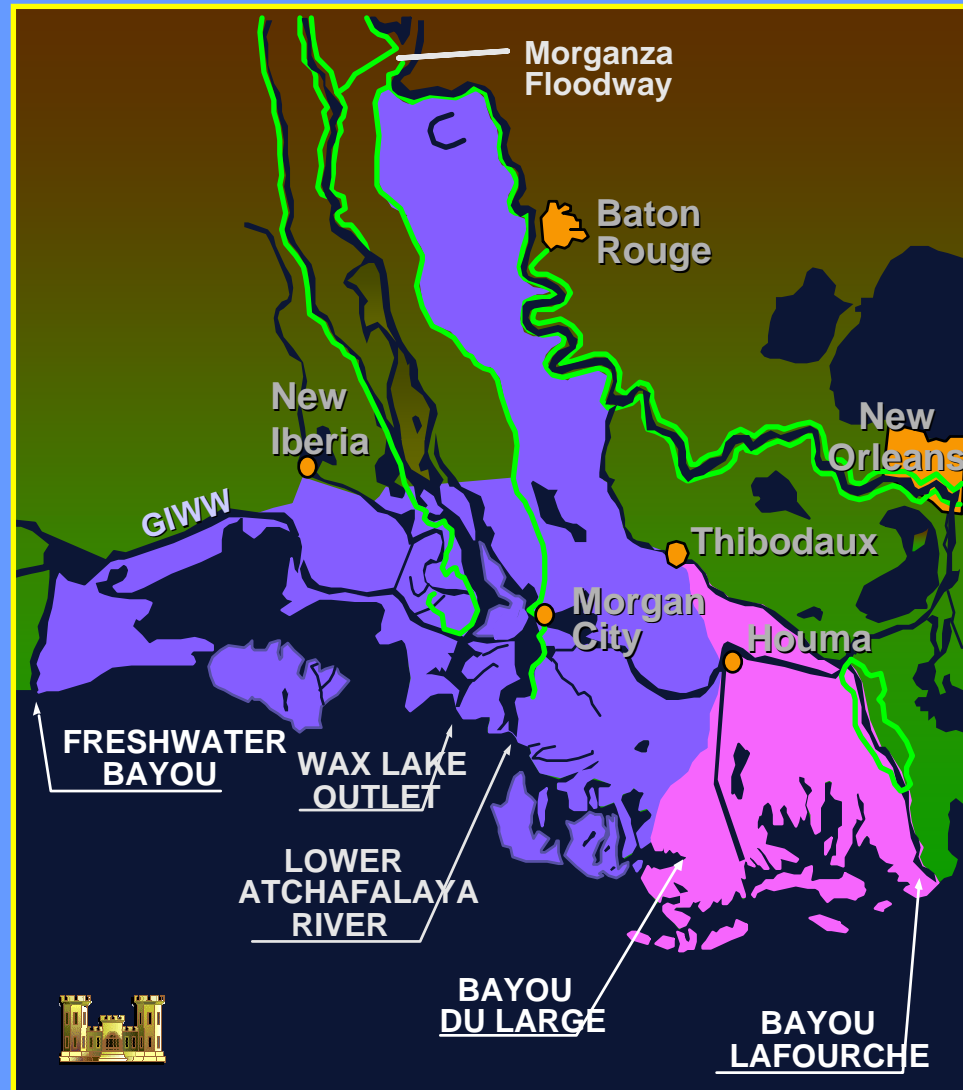
- **FY 06 Funds Required:** \$10 million

- **Project Issues:**

Construction authorization in WRDA.

Limited FY 05 funding for planning and design of new projects will delay progress. No FY 06 funding will suspend until construction backlog reduced.

Cong Add may require offsets.





Project Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, MVN-PM-M
P.O. Box 94396
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Date: March 2005

Morganza, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico Hurricane Protection Project

PROJECT AUTHORITY: A Reconnaissance Study for the Morganza, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico Hurricane Protection Project was authorized by Congress in 1992. Following completion of this report, Congress authorized a Feasibility Study in the E&WD Act of 1995. The Feasibility Study was completed in March 2002 and the Chief of Engineers letter was forwarded to the Secretary of the Army in August 2002 and supplemented in July 2003. Section 158, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2004 (P.L. 108-137) authorized Reach J, Segment 1, a three mile portion of the Morganza twelve mile Reach J levee.

PROJECT SPONSORS: The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) acted as the local sponsor for the feasibility study and has agreed to sponsor detailed design and construction, and has requested advancing \$2M in cost share funds to continue FY 05 PED.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed work is located in coastal Louisiana approximately 60 miles southwest of New Orleans, and includes portions of Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. The area is bounded on the west by Bayou Du Large and State Highway 311 and on the east by Bayou Lafourche with the east and west boundaries forming an apex at Thibodaux, LA. The southern boundary is the Gulf of Mexico.

PROJECT PURPOSE: In the interest of flood control, navigation, wetlands conservation and restoration, wildlife habitat, commercial and recreational fishing, salt water intrusion and fresh water and sediment diversion, and other purposes, the recommended plan of the Feasibility Study was selected for implementation. Consistent with reducing hurricane and flood damages in an environmentally sustainable manner, the project is being designed and will be operated to achieve coastal wetland conservation through the improved distribution of freshwater inflows to wetlands wherever feasible. The project will protect over 120,000 people and 1,700 square miles of saline and fresh marshes, farmlands, heavy and light industry, residential, and other developed areas.

PROJECT FEATURES: The hurricane protection system includes approximately 72-miles of earthen levees, nine 56' wide floodgates, three 125' wide floodgates, and a Lock Complex consisting of a 110' wide by 800' long lock with an adjacent 200' floodgate. The plan also includes twelve sets of 6' by 6' box culverts through the levees to allow normal tidal ebb and flow. Mitigation features of the plan include creation of 1,352 acres of marsh habitat and widening a 10,600' canal to 40' to enhance freshwater flow into the system. Pre-construction Engineering and Design (PED) of the lock was previously authorized by the FY 99 E&WD appropriations act and a PED agreement executed on January 13, 2000 between USACE and the local sponsor. A PED agreement for the overall project was executed on May 22, 2002, between the USACE and the local sponsor. Completion of the lock design is scheduled for June 2006. Design of the lock access road is scheduled to be complete in the first quarter of FY 06. The Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District will participate as the sponsor for operation and maintenance of project features as identified in the feasibility report. The local sponsor that will construct Reach J, Segment 1, has initiated PED and anticipates initiating construction in July 2005.

PROJECT COSTS:	<u>Total Project</u>
Total Project Cost	\$719,000,000
Total Federal Cost	\$467,000,000
Total Non-Federal Cost	\$252,000,000

PROJECT BUDGET/SCHEDULE: The project PED is scheduled to be completed in FY 2020. The FY 2005 allocation is \$2.75 million.

PROJECT ISSUES: Congressional authorization is required for construction (except for Reach J, Segment 1). Reduced FY 2005 PED funding will severely limit or curtail some on-going design efforts. The local cost share advance request is pending approval at HQ level. Suspending PED funding in FY 2006, will delay construction and the environmental and flood damage reduction benefits to a large area.